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Central China Record.

June–July, 1903.

Vol. VI. Nos. 6. and 7.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Prayer Cycle; Progress; Furloughs. . . . . Page 1.

A Correction; Nanking District Bible School; A Genuine Revival; The Forward Movement . . . . . ,, 2.

Bishop Moore's Conference Plan; Objects and Points of View in Chinkiang . . . . . ,, 3.

Itinerating from Wuhu as a Centre. . . . . ,, 4.

A Fruitful Source of Sorrow. . . . . ,, 5.

Wuhu Woman's Work; A Surprise in Day schools. . . . . ,, 6.

The Wuhu Hospital . . . . . ,, 7.

Notes. . . . . ,, 8.

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Central China Record.

PUBLISHED BY THE

CENTRAL CHINA MISSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Vol. 6. Nos. 6. and 7. NANKING. June—July. 1903.

According to your faith be it unto you.

Prayer-cycle of our Mission. 1 Sam. 12:23.

MONDAY, CHINKIANG. THURSDAY, KIUKIANG.

TUESDAY, NANKING. FRIDAY, NANCHANG.

WEDNESDAY, WUHU. SATURDAY, CHIENCHANG.

SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE MISSION.

Progress.

The Central China Record appears for the first time in several years in a new dress. While it is true that the clothes do not make the man, it is equally true that a neat suit will attract favorable attention, which will insure a fair investigation of his worth. We trust that such will be the result of our change of form.

This change was largely made possible through our advertisers. None of these firms need an introduction to the missionaries on the field. We bespeak for them the continued trade of all our readers. Please mention the "*Record*" when writing to them.

Furloughs.

It is an unwritten law in our mission that regular furloughs shall occur once in seven years, irregular ones occur when the particular case demands it.

In accordance with this principle Dr. Stuart with his family are returning home on their regular furlough, and Mrs. Anna L. Davis on account of broken health.

Dr. Stuart's family, with Mrs. Davis, cross the Pacific to Seattle where Mrs. Davis is to remain while in America. Mrs. Stuart and the children go on to their home at Van Meter, Iowa.

Dr. Stuart with his son George returns to America by way of the Trans-Siberian route, meeting the eldest daughter, Mildred, in Paris, where she has been studying for a few months. They will immediately proceed to the United States.

Dr. Stuart may be addressed either in care of the Mission Rooms, 150 Fifth Ave. N. Y., or at Van Meter, Iowa.

A Correction.

Alas how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

The change of a little word has brought shame to the Editor, and confusion into the ranks of our W. F.M.S. ladies. We made them call for "eight men missionaries;" it should have been "eight new missionaries."

The Nanking District Bible School.

From June the 1st to the 8th an eight days conference was held at Nanking University for the preachers of the Nanking District, as well as for the students of the Theological School.

This conference was under the direction of the P.E., D.W. Nichols, who was assisted by Miss E. C. Shaw of our Woman's Board, as well as by some of the teachers at the University.

Topics discussed included "Methods of work," "The Relation of the Pastor to his people," "Bible Study" in its different forms, "The Discipline" and others.

There was a daily attendance of about thirty including some of the Bible-women from the Women's School. Naturally the result of such a conference, while undoubtedly of the greatest good, cannot be immediately seen, but it is just this kind of work that is to raise the standard of our Native Ministry.

A Genuine Revival.

In connection with the above conference the Presiding Elder held a revival service each evening beginning on Monday the first and closing on Wednesday the 10th.

The meetings were attended by practically all the students of our three schools, the Women's, the Girls' and the Boys', and a deep interest was manifested throughout. Some forty different persons came forward to the altar seeking a change of heart.

After the meetings had closed, of their own accord two others came to the pastor of the church expressing their desire to become Christians. One of these was a Mohammedan.

Among the women and the girls ten or twelve openly professed to have experienced a genuine change of heart. Twenty of the boys have been organized into a Weekly Bible class, promising to daily read their Bible and to look to God in prayer.

The fields are ripe unto the harvest. It is very encouraging to know that the Church at home is arising to meet her opportunity.

The Forward Movement.

One of the most encouraging things that can come to the Missionary on the field, next of course to direct reinforcement, is news that the Church at home is more fully appreciating the opportunities for mission work which these heathen lands present. We feel that we have the honor of representing the Church here as its ambassadors, while we represent Christ. No ambassador who is enthused with the dignity of his office will complain of the difficulties or hardships, or of the expatriation, as long as the Power he represents supports him in every move that is in harmony with his instructions. As long as he has the word of his King he goes on undaunted.

The undoubted revival of missionary enthusiasm and missionary consecration which the "Forward Movement" in the Methodist Church is generating is to us on the field a

source of very great encourgement. It **indicates** that we are to be properly supported by the Church which has sent us on this mission. It **signifies** that the resistance to the spread of the knowledge of the Kingdom is to be overcome; **it is proof** that the Church believes nothing too hard for God; it **assures us** that, slow and hard as is the mighty battle, the Church will never retreat, but will go on until lasting and complete victory is won. How much **such encouragement** means to us. Of course "Our help cometh from the Lord", but it looks as though that "help" would reach us in America pretty soon if the Church did not do her appointed part. Therefore the splendid results being accomplished by the Missionary Society at home is to us on the field an encouragement only comparable to the joy which comes to wearied ranks of soldiers when, after a battle has raged long and stubbornly, they hear the shouts of reinforcements coming. How greatly we shall be able to strengthen our line of battle, how much we shall be able to extend our effort and influence if we can have **more men, more money,** and **more prayer.** The present movement in our Church is we believe going to produce in fuller measure just these necessities of success in the mission work upon which she has entered. **More prayer** for Missions will mean **more giving;** more giving will mean that the Society will have the means to receive the answers to the prayers of the past for Open Doors. God has already sent answers more than the Church was ready to receive. The increased force and the larger appropriations to the field will enable us to enter doors already open, and to occupy more thoroughly where we have entered. With joyful hearts therefore we pray for the continued success of the "Open Door Movement" in our Church.

H. F. R.

* * *

Bishop Moore's Conference Plan.

1903.

Foochow, Oct. 7th.
(*Foochow.*)

Hing-hua Oct. 16th.
(*Hing-hua.*)

CHINA CENTRAL, Nov. 5th.
(*Nanking.*)

West China, Dec. 23rd.
(*Chungking.*)

1904.

Central China, Jan. 20th.
(*Kiukiang.*)

Korea, Feb. 17th.
(*Seoul.*)

South Japan, March, 16th.
(*Fukuoka.*)

JAPAN CENTRAL, March 27-30th.
(*Tokyo.*)

Japan, March 31st.
(*Tokyo.*)

Peking, DAVID H. MOORE.
June 16: 1903.

Objects and Points of view in Chinkiang.

We get so accustomed to the **ludicrous and incongruous** in some ways that they cease to appeal to us until some new phase occurs. Just across the 12 ft. street, right opposite our chapel door, is a shop whose sign is 象生, meaning literally "like life". It is a shop for the manufacture of paper and bamboo furnishings used in the worship of ancestors. Here are made, of parti-colored paper spread over slender bamboo frames, men, houses, chairs, tables, horses,—everything supposed to be necessary for the comfort and well being of departed spirits. They are burned at the graves and thus transformed

CENTRAL CHINA RECORD.

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EDITORS.

Chinkiang,.....Edward James.
Kiukiang,.....F. G. Henke.
Nanchang,.....R. E. Maclean.
Wuhu.....H. F. Rowe.
Advertising Editor,
John F. Wilson,
Kiukiang.
Managing Editor,
Wilbur F. Wilson,
Nanking.

into condition usable by those for whom they are intended. That shop often serves to "point a moral" as we preach daily to the people who fill our chapel.

As though this **constant contradiction** were not sufficient, a few days ago, upon opening the chapel doors, I found a man stationed at the entrance making little clay images and gilding them. He was doing a thriving business, too, selling as he was making. The little images thus made and sold are, of course, not worshipped in earnest, but they are supposed to possess some utility.

Utility indeed!! Idolatry is so ingrained into this people, it so enters into the warp and woof of their life, the devil is so completely master over them, that whether in sport or seriousness, in pastime or in pain, the divine nature is dwarfed and caricatured, sin is enthroned and **the devil supreme.** Nothing less than the salvation that saves from the uttermost and "to the uttermost" can transform this people, and bring every thought into captivity to His will.

E. J.

Itinerating from Wuhu as a Centre.

There are probably few places better situated for itinerating than Wuhu. Within a radius of thirty miles there are **seven small rivers** flowing into the Yangtsi, all of which are navigable in high water, and several of which are navigable during the whole year. Situated on these small rivers are **many towns** and small cities with populations ranging from several thousand to ten thousand. The rivers make these places **easily accessible.** No need of tiresome overland journeys and Chinese inns in which men and cattle are not the only lodgers. We can go by boat, live on the boat, and work from it. From these larger towns as centres we may work **a very large territory**—I say "may" because we are now only partially working this immense territory. It will require more workers both native and foreign in order to do what may be done.

I am continually surprised at the evidence that **the old enmity** to the "Foreign Belief" is not nearly so strong as it was. The friendliness, which seems genuine, with which we are received is, in view of what we are aiming to do, **a great encouragement,** and a sign of opportunity. In the stations visited I am becoming aquainted with many who are not yet willing to come to the services, but whose **friendship** for us **is growing.** In one place in particular **the children** greet the "Foreign Teacher" with a

heartiness which at least shows that they are not taught to fear the foreigner and to salute him with **Foreign Devil. It makes one homesick** to hear the little fellows call out to you, much as they do at home.

On a recent visit to the stations we had some very encouraging incidents. At one station there was **a class of seven** appearing for baptism. After a pretty thorough examination **five were baptised,** while the other two were kept on probation in the hope that they may increase in knowledge and bring forth fruits attesting their repentance. One of those whom we baptized was **a man of fifty-three years,** a respectable and intelligent old gentleman in whom I have taken a great interest. He **has been so earnest** in his desire to learn about the way, and it has been a great joy to be able to help him a little. As he knelt to receive baptism I could not but think of the shame which, from the view-point of the unbeliever in China, attached to what he was doing, and I wondered, half doubting, whether he felt it. But when the service was ended **he seemed as happy** as could be, and my doubts were put to flight.

At another place at the examination of the school some **of the larger boys** were asked what they intended doing when grown to manhood. Two bright boys answered that they desired to **work for Christ.** These boys have grown up in **Christian homes.** They know the Bible **better** than the average Sunday-school scholars of their age in America, and I believe if we come to the help of the Lord and **send the two boys to the Theological School** (after they have prepared for it in the College) they will make capable and faithful ministers. Some one who reads this may easily send $30. a year to help support them.

At Tai Ping-fu our pastor and the pastor of the China Inland Mission have done something that is **worthy of being copied.** Once a month on a week evening day the two congregations meet for a union service. The pastors take **the service by turns** and they meet at each Church alternately. **Their object** is to bring the members to see that we are all one in Christ, thus diminishing greatly the liklihood of any trouble between them. Tai Ping is making **slow but steady progress.**

One or two items not so pleasant may interest. At one town just as we had finished the service a woman came saying her boy was very **sick with cholera.** I gave her some medicine but did not hear whether he recovered or not. Soon after one of our people came in saying a teacher in his home had cholera, and again I gave out a little Cholera-mixture. At another place the pastor's family was **afflicted with small-pox** and though recovering were not yet well. At another place the teacher's family had recovered from small-pox but we could see the **great scars left** on the little boy's body by this dread disease. These are just **side lights** on a Missionary's life. We must battle against all that is lowest in morals and see too all that is worst in health and sanitation. The Gospel we preach cures one and greatly helps the other.

H. F. R.

A Fruitful Source of Sorrow.

That is **litigation.** And Chinese seem to glory in litigation. But no. They terribly fear it, because of the practical impossibility of securing justice. Notwithstanding chronic and sure injustice, there are always many ready to appeal to the courts, either in desperation over their own

case or with the hope of ruining their adversary.

This is a principal, if not **the principal evil** we have to do with in some who seek membership in the Church. Why do you seek to enter the Church? Because I believe the doctrine. Have you any law-suit on hand now, or are you anticipating one? No, never. And yet not infrequently we find out later that he actually had a case on hand at that time, or was in the midst of circumstances that made a case probable.

The effort is made to get **the name of the Church** on his side, and under this cover sometimes much gross injustice is done. But whether the cause of the plaintiff be just or unjust in Chinese law, using the name of the Church as a weapon against his opponent, or a scourge upon negligent capricious, or covetous officials is certainly beyond all allowance and cannot be tolerated for a moment. It thoroughly disorganizes society, prostitutes the Church, and encourages all conceivable villainy. We have recently had some painful experiences, resulting, so far, in the discontinuance of eight probationers. **The effect** upon the native ministry of tampering with this evil can only be disastrous.

Wuhu Woman's Work.

The W. F. M. S. has in Wuhu pursued for six years the policy of just **half supporting their work.** There has been **one lady** here living in a rented house, **living alone.** She has been obliged to take a year's furlough, and that leaves the work temporarily with **no one in charge.**

Comparisons are never in the best taste, and I will make none for the additional reason that none are needed. A growing city with a population from 80,000 to 100,000 is usually considered **workable territory.** The Missionary Society has had work here for years, a Hospital for a dozen of years, but it is only six years since Miss Mitchell came here to work among women. Though laboring for much of the time under **great difficulties,** and all the time alone, she has done a good work. There are **visible results,** something that may not always be said. There is **a faithful class of women** in our 2nd St. Church, and they have been taught what the Gospel means. There has been **much day-school work done** and it is of a high order, for Miss Mitchell is **a born teacher.** There have been **sewing classes** for the women, where they **heard the "Old Story" while they worked.** And there was **the Charity Kitchen** during that terrible flood year, when so many hundreds were fed, and taught about the Father whose care is so fine that not a sparrow can starve but He knows it.

Now Wuhu would suffer nothing by comparison with any other centre where there is a like population and where a like amount of work has been done, **and it ought to be supported** and in a sensible and faithful manner. The work ought not to be closed for a year if it is possible to avoid it.

H. F. R.

A Surprise in Day-Schools.

While examining a day-school very recently I met with a more than ordinary strange affair. **One boy** came and rattled through his classics at a breathless pace for forty unbroken minutes. **Another boy** droned along interminably, so that I felt no compunctions at showing slacking interest,—if only I could arouse him. One after another they came, one shouting to raise the roof, another needing encouragement to speak more loudly and distinctly.

The last one called, I noticed at once, was not called by name but by gesture. A little fellow, twelve years by Chinese count, (he could certainly pass for eight among us); he **was deaf,** and of course, dumb. And what can a deaf and dumb boy learn in a day-school? Well, before he finished his recitation I had lost all tendencies to somnolence, and was becoming more surprised every minute. **His examination** was in the written language. Scores of single characters and combinations, written on squares of paper, were passed before him, and quick as a flash he would gesture their meaning.

Some of the characters were such that one movement would suffice to show the meaning, e. g. for sky, stars, earth, grass, trees, etc. But some were not so simple, e. g. middle, water, beautiful, hungry, admirable, etc. These required complex movements. But that **he knew the meaning** of such characters there was no doubt.

He had not learned his own name, but in less than five minutes we had taught him those characters. I then began **a lesson in arithmetic** with him, and he seized upon the numbers with magnetic zeal. Then I began to articulate words for him to see the movements of the lips. He soon began to make sounds, and was able to reproduce approximately some simple sounds of words.

If any one who reads this knows any ways or means whereby this bright little fellow can be given the needed training and be rescued from his living death, I shall be glad to answer all enquiries and render all possible assistance. I solicit your interest in his behalf.

EDWARD JAMES.

Chinkiang

Wuhu Hospital.

Wuhu General Hospital has never been more **prosperous** or more **busy** than it is now. The number of patients for the last month has been the **largest in its history.** The contributions, fees, etc are also large. This, with other conditions, indicates that the friendship of the people for us, and their knowledge of our methods, is growing. It gives the very best opportunity to preach the Gospel which is to bring healing to the soul. **The pastor** whose whole time is given to the patients, is very faithful, preaching with ability and **personally exhorting** men to accept the Gospel and its Christ.

We are continually hearing from outside sources that the abundant seed-sowing here is producing **a harvest** for the Churches in the cities and towns from which the patients come. In some of the places the missionaries testify that many who join the churches first hear the Gospel at the Wuhu Hospital. Their stay in the hospital is usually too short to learn more than the first principles, but many go away with a desire to know more of this way, and so identify themselves with the church in their home place. The pity is that it is not possible to follow all these people to their homes. That our own mission gets only a small per cent of the believers who are convinced here is perhaps a minor consideration, but with **the present force of workers** in the territory from which patients come only a part of them are apt to be reached after they return to their homes.

H. F. R.

Notes.

Bishop Moore is again in Central China. He has been holding the Conferences in the north and has come to meet with the missionaries of Central China at their annual Estimate meeting. This year the meeting is to be held at Kuling, our recuperating station on the mountains. The Bishop always brings a smiling face and good cheer and we are very glad to have him with us again.

CONGRTULATIONS are in order. We are pleased to announce that Bro. Maclean has a guest in his home in the person of a big fat baby boy. Bro. Trindle, who, while not one of us in name is in person and spirit, is the proud possessor of a bouncing baby girl. These babes were both born at Kuling this month. The RECORD extends to both Mr. and Mrs. Maclean, and Mr. and Mrs. Trindle the heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

The next number of the RECORD will be the Estimate Meeting number. This meeting is the verbal expression of our hopes and aims. The years are bringing greatly increased opportunities and the mission tries to acommodate its desires to the inadequate provision made for the work by the Church at home. The meeting then is usually one of light and shade, but we are expecting the light to predominate this year. Watch our next number and see.

Miss K. Kauffman of Foochow is at present the guest of the W.F.M. S. ladies of our mission. She carries sunshine wherever she goes, and it is a pleasure to have her with us. She expects to spend the summer with Mrs. Nichols at Kuling.

The Chinese boys are very anxious to learn English. Some makes excellent progress, others, at times, sad havoc of it. Here are a few specimens:

"I told you do that, why do you didn't?"

Trying to quote the precept "There is a place for every thing, put every thing in its place," one said.

"Everywhere there is a place, put everything in this place."

Another came nearer to it when he defined "a man of wit" as "One who tells what he knows." And this one who said in defining the word "roots" that, "The branches which are in the ground are called roots."

This one may make a name for himself some day. He was asked to tell what was meant by the sentence "I can speak by report." His answer was "I can speak by taking notes of and writing for the press."

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The Rev. W. C. Dodd wrote us on October 13th, 1897, on this subject, as fellow :—

Cheung Hai, Lao, *viâ* Burma and Rahang,
October 13th, 1897.

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San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A.

Dear Sirs :—

It gives me great pleasure to report that the goods which we sent you the order for last February, arrived here a few days ago, by elephant from Cheung Mai. They had come from Bangkok in a native boat, poled all the way : and it is with pleasure that I report to you that they arrived in the best of condition, and so far as examined, are most satisfactory. Thank you for your promptness and your care in packing and forwarding. I have lived in the Orient more than ten years ; and this is the first time that we have received properly packed goods from America. Henceforth I am not going to tell my friends that they must send to England for goods, if they wish them hermetically sealed.

And in due time you shall hear from us in the shape of another order.

With best thanks for kindness, I am,

Your very sincerely,
W. C. Dodd.

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